

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madame Speaker:

We support the President's request on behalf of the American people – to finish the work on health insurance reform by voting “yes” on health reform in an up-or-down vote without delay.

In December, the Senate passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, a strong bill to give Americans more control over their health care. The Senate bill and the President's proposal will hold insurance companies more accountable and make health care more affordable for the American people. It will create millions of new jobs, reduce the budget deficit, and improve the health and economic security of millions of American families.

Over the last two months, we have listened to the public, our colleagues in the House and Senate, and the President. We support making important improvements they have recommended in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. These improvements include:

- Improving insurance protections for consumers to prevent discrimination against pre-existing conditions, policy terminations and other unfair practices of insurance plans;
- Strengthening the provisions that make insurance affordable for millions of middle class individuals and families;
- Closing the Medicare prescription drug “donut hole” coverage gap that impacts millions of seniors;
- Improving the fairness of federal support and providing significant additional financing to all states for the expansion of Medicaid.
- Strengthening the provisions to fight fraud, waste, and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid;
- Significantly reforming the high-cost plan excise tax and maintaining its impact on bending the cost curve over time, while deferring its effective date and substantially reducing its application to allow high cost plans to increase efficiencies

These improvements are critical to tackling our serious health insurance crisis and to addressing our nation's deficits. They cannot wait. Democrats and Republicans agree that if we do nothing, the problems will only grow worse. As the President stated recently, “More Americans will lose their family's health insurance if they switch jobs or lose their job. More small businesses will be forced to choose between health care and hiring. More insurance companies will deny people coverage who have preexisting conditions, or drop people's coverage when they get sick and need it most. And the rising cost of Medicare and Medicaid will sink our government deeper and deeper into debt. On all of this we agree.”

We believe that health insurance reform cannot wait and must not be obstructed. We support an up-or-down majority vote and will vote to make these improvements in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,